

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A microwave oven comprising:
 - a cavity in which food is cooked; ~~and~~
 - a front cover adjacent a front portion of the cavity;
 - an electrical component chamber provided beside the cavity and including a plurality of electrical components;
 - a control panel adjacent a front portion of the electric component chamber; and
 - a base cover having:
 - a cover body installed under the cavity and contacting a mounting surface,
 - a stepped portion bent upward from an end of the cover body for supporting the cavity,
 - at least one air intake hole defined in the stepped portion for through which outside air passes, and
 - a reinforcement rib which protrudes from a periphery of the air intake hole, wherein the reinforcement rib protrudes in forward direction or backward direction relative to the periphery of the air intake hole,
 - wherein the air intake hole is a cavity intake hole located under the cavity, ~~and~~
 - wherein the microwave oven further includes at least one panel intake hole in the stepped portion at a location adjacent the cavity intake hole,

wherein the panel intake hole is in alignment with and located under the control panel, air through the panel intake hole passing under the control panel to remove heat; and
~~wherein the cavity intake hole and the panel intake hole are different~~

wherein a size of the cavity intake hole is substantially equal to or larger than a size of the panel intake hole, the sizes of the cavity intake hole and panel intake hole set to prevent a foreign object larger than the cavity intake hole from passing into the electric component chamber through the panel intake hole.

2. (Original) The microwave oven according to claim 1, wherein the stepped portion is bent upwardly from a front end of the cover body with a predetermined height.

3. (Original) The microwave oven according to claim 1, wherein the stepped portion is bent upwardly from a side end of the cover body with a predetermined height.

4-5 (Canceled)

6. (Original) The microwave oven according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcement rib is formed at an upper periphery and a side periphery of the air intake hole.

7. (Original) The microwave oven according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcement rib has a "□"-shaped section.

8. (Previously Presented) The microwave oven according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcement rib is formed integrally with the stepped portion as a result of cutting and bending a part of the stepped portion, such that the reinforcement rib is protruded forwardly or backwardly from the periphery of the air intake hole.

9. (Original) The microwave oven according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcement rib is integrally formed with the stepped portion.

10-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The microwave oven according to claim 1, further comprising: a plurality of cavity intake holes, wherein each cavity intake hole has a size substantially equal to or larger than ~~different from~~ the panel intake hole.

22. (Previously Presented) The microwave oven according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of cavity intake holes are arranged in a single row across a front surface of the stepped portion.

23. (Currently Amended) The microwave oven according to claim 21, further comprising: a plurality of panel intake holes, where each of the panel intake holes has a size substantially equal to or smaller than ~~different from~~ the plurality of cavity intake holes.

24. (Currently Amended) The microwave oven according to claim 23, wherein the plurality of panel intake holes are located in alignment with and under the [[a]] control panel.

25. (Previously Presented) The microwave oven according to claim 23, wherein:
the plurality of panel intake holes are arranged in multiple rows, and
the plurality of cavity intake holes are arranged in a single row.

26. (Previously Presented) The microwave oven according to claim 25, wherein two of the panel intake holes are adjacent a same one of the cavity intake holes.